

Remarks:

This application has been reviewed carefully in view of the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004, ("the Office Action"). In the Office Action, the drawings were
5 objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claims 9 and 10 were objected to as containing certain informalities. Claims 1-3, 5, 9 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly anticipated by the Montgomery et al. patent, U.S. Pat. No. 6,776,221. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Montgomery et al., in view of the Cheon patent, U.S. Pat. No. 6,313,990. Claims 6, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Montgomery et al., in view of the Garner patent, U.S. Pat. No. 6,657,121. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Montgomery et al., in view of the Niklos patent, U.S. Pat. No. 5,528,454.

15 Applicants note with appreciation that claim 13 was acknowledged to be allowable over the references of record if rewritten in independent form.

20 New claims 19-23 have been added to the application. These claims contain no new matter.

The above-described objections and rejections are addressed as follows:

25 1. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have added FIG. 7 to comply with cited C.F.R. sections. Applicants have also amended the Brief Description of the Drawings and the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments to reflect added FIG. 7. Support for these amendments may be
30 found in the first paragraph on page 10 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Applicants respectfully request the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

2. OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the objection to claims 9 and 10.

5 Applicants respectfully request the objection to claims 9 and 10 be withdrawn.

3. REJECTIONS OVER THE CITED ART

a. Independent Claim 1 and its Dependent Claims

10 Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable (but objected to) original claim 13 and intervening original claim 11. Therefore, claim 1 is now of the same scope as allowable original claim 13, and should be allowable. Claims 11 and 13 have been canceled.

15 Because claim 1 now has the scope of original claim 13, which was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-6, 8-10 and 12, be withdrawn.

20 b. Independent Claims 14 and 15, and their Dependent Claims

Applicants have amended independent claims 14 and 15 to incorporate features similar to those of allowable (but objected to) original claim 13 and intervening claim 11. For reasons similar to those applicable to original claim 13, claims 14 and 15 should now 25 be allowable.

For the reasons recited above, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent claims 14 and 15, and dependent claims 16-18, be withdrawn.

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Amendment, dated May 17, 2005
In Response to Office Action Dated December 17, 2004

4. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:


The attached sheet of drawings includes new FIG. 7. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 5 and 6, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 5 and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 3/3